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update

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UNDP urges Social Summit agenda to look beyond conventional social development approaches

The World Summit for Social Development, and its Declaration and Plan of Action will provide an opportunity for strengthening a new vision of sustainable human development which accentuates "society" and not just the "economy," UNDP Assistant Administrator Gus Edgren told the first Preparatory Committee meeting for next year's Social Summit. This vision should look beyond conventional social development strategies towards more integrated and intersectorally linked approaches, he said.

The preparatory meeting, held at United Nations headquarters in New York on 31 January – 11 February, had the task of drawing up an action plan and declaration for consideration when the Summit takes place on 6-12 March, 1995 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Summit will bring together presidents, prime ministers and other world leaders to approve an action plan to alleviate and reduce poverty, expand productive employment and promote social integration.

Mr. Edgren said the Summit can become an "empowering event" if new mechanisms can be found to bring essential components of civil society — such as trade unions, religious organizations, professional groups and NGOs and community groups — "genuinely and meaningfully into the preparatory process... With its field presence, coordinating responsibilities, and focus on people, UNDP intends to be directly involved in working with countries and our UN system partners in realizing the Summit goals," he added.

UNDP's substantive contribution to the Summit will include the Human Development Report 1994, which will present a fifty year review of human development and dis-

The World Summit for Social Development will tackle the current problems of social integration, poverty and unemployment.* Above: *The Timpoal Hand-pump Factory in Mexico.* Left: *A rural health centre in Yemen.* Below: *Mayan children at a primary school in the Guatemalan highlands.

Photos by Ruth Mosely / UNDP

In this issue:

UNDP narrows its focus – New initiatives in Arab States – Study finds development paradox in Malawi – Aiding the aid managers in Eastern Europe – New roles for two UNDP officials

cuss a new approach for sustainable human development. It will emphasize the Summit themes of poverty alleviation, social integration, and employment. UNDP is also responding to country requests for assistance in designing sustainable human development strategies for the future.

Several research initiatives are now receiving UNDP support in areas directly associated with Summit themes. These studies include research into relationships between macro-economic policies and employment outcomes, and links between social exclusion and the experience of policies to promote social integration.

As part of its commitment to assisting countries in their own preparatory processes for the Summit, UNDP is also facilitating involvement of organizations of the civil society. Along these lines, UNDP co-funded the production of the Earth Negotiations Bulletin, which helped share information on the Preparatory Committee meetings among government delegates, NGOs and the media.

More than 250 non-governmental organizations participated in the first Preparatory Committee meeting. Organizations which have not yet applied for accreditation to the Summit and its preparatory process can send their request to the NGO Unit/DPCSD, United Nations, Room DC2-2340, New York, NY 10017. Fax. (212) 963-3892. Requests received by 15 April 1994 will be submitted to the Preparatory Committee at its second session, to be held in New York on 22 August – 2 September 1994.

For more information, please contact Lisbet Rubinstein, Secretariat of the World Summit for Social Development, NGO Liaison, New York. Telephone: (212) 963-1957 or Fax: (212) 963-1010.

READEX
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UNDP to tighten focus of its programme

UNDP is narrowing its focus to make the most of tight resources, UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth told reporters last week in New Delhi, India. "We have been developing a new UNDP which is repositioned and restructured to use our modest resources," he said. "It's a big change from the UNDP of the past."

Mr. Speth made a two-week trip through Asia, which brought him to Viet Nam, India and Bangladesh. He told reporters in India that UNDP will focus on three main areas: the environment, poverty alleviation and improving governance in developing countries. He said that UNDP wanted to help ensure that the benefits of economic growth reached the poorest of the poor. UNDP was also being called on to advise governments in countries undergoing major political and economic restructuring, such as Viet Nam, which is shifting to a market economy.

As part of his six-day schedule in India, Mr. Speth participated in an international meeting of the Global Task Force for Child Survival and Development. The meeting reviewed current strategies to deliver and strengthen health services for children and mothers at both the global and national levels. Formed in 1984, the Task Force is sponsored by UNDP, the World Bank, UNICEF, WHO and the Rockefeller Foundation. Each agency was given the opportunity to present a summary of its contributions towards child survival.

Virtually all of the substantive topics examined at the meeting — maternal and child health care, immunizations, diarrhoeal disease control and strengthening basic education — have gained both the leadership and support of UNDP, primarily through its global and inter-regional programmes.

Two major initiatives include UNDP's HIV and Development Programme, and its Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation Programme. UNDP also supports several vaccine-related programmes. It has actively worked with the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Bangladesh, and promotes health for children through its Partnership for Child Development programme. Furthermore, the survival and development of children is at the heart of UNDP's sustainable human development approach.

Mr. Speth also visited projects in Madras, Pondicherry and Pura Village, near Bangalore. He participated in a special high-level Round Table on the prospects for sustainable human development and the possible role for UNDP. In addition, he delivered a Foundation Day lecture at the Tata Energy Research Institute.

New initiatives for the UNDP programme in Arab States

The next regional programme for the Arab States will include three new initiatives: sustainable human development, economic integration and trade, and sustainable energy. These steps were endorsed at UNDP's first inter-governmental meeting of Arab States since 1990. The high-level governmental gathering, held in Sana'a, Yemen supported the regional UNDP programme for the Arab States for the years 1994-96.

The first regional initiative will be concerned with incorporating human development issues into the region's overall development planning and resource allocation. Improving statistical data in such areas as education, health, gender issues and labour migration will enable countries to develop sustainable human development profiles and strategies. UNDP will also assist the region in producing a regional Human Development Report.

The economic integration and trade initiative will improve capacity within the region to expand trade between Arab countries. This effort will focus on trade information, trade facilitation and promo-

tion, institutional capacity building, human resource development, and trade financing.

The sustainable energy component of the regional programme will make the most of energy resources in an environmentally sustainable manner. Priority will be given to devising sound energy policies, including environmental energy regulations and standards, introducing energy-saving technologies, and public awareness programmes consistent with the region's needs.

Poverty study in Malawi points to need for human development approach

A new book reveals a development paradox in Malawi: in the wake of sustained economic growth, the country's social indicators have remained low. The impact of macro-economic growth on the people's standard of living has been negligible. Poverty is widespread and income distribution is skewed. The book, *Situation Analysis of Poverty in Malawi*, is the culmination of a two-year study by the government and UN agencies in the country.

Although poverty alleviation needs to be a high priority on the nation's development agenda, the study finds that economic growth, though necessary, has not been a sufficient condition for poverty alleviation.

The most critical strategy, it states, will be the involvement of the poor as important participants in the country's development efforts.

Second, decentralised and efficient local institutions at the grass-roots level are needed to effectively respond to local conditions and priorities. Services in agriculture, business training, health, and basic education are best managed at the local level to realize direct benefits to the poor.

Third, the development process must be seen in the medium to long-term perspective. The provision of priority human development services such as primary health care, basic education, family planning, nutrition, and water and sanitation are among the most cost-effective ways of reducing poverty.

One of the purposes of this joint study was to help rethink development strategies, and to pave the way for building capacities and allocating the requisite resources to ensure that poverty alleviation becomes an operational reality in Malawi.

Aiding the aid managers in Eastern Europe and the Republics of the former Soviet Union

UNDP and the World Bank are working together to provide training in foreign assistance management to government officials and national consultants in the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Donors began stressing the importance of efficient and well-managed use of external resources in this region at the 1992 Tokyo Conference on Assistance to the Newly Independent States.

Last year, the World Bank and UNDP began close collaboration in setting up nationally-run External Resources Management Units in several republics of the former Soviet Union. These new offices will play an important role in the countries' management of their own resources. They will mobilize, coordinate and manage external assistance, act as facilitators between government ministries and donors, and match national development priorities and demands for assistance with the resources available from donors.

The new units will grapple with key issues of international cooperation that directly affect the reform processes in the region. Thus, training courses on management of external resources will be offered in connection with an examination of general macro-economic and national planning issues. The first group of countries where training will be provided will include those already creating External Resources Management Units: Bulgaria, Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Among those taking the courses will be government officials from the Units, the sectoral ministries, national consultants and trainers of trainers.

The three-week courses, followed by on-the-job training, will cover market economics, financial analysis, debt management, foreign investment, and economic management for countries in transition to democracy and market economy. Specific course work will also be offered on the preparation, management and evaluation of projects for technical and capital assistance, procurement and audit procedures, data collection and analysis, and donors' regulations for provision of assistance.

Two UNDP officials take on new roles

Ms. Capeling-Alakija has been appointed Director of UNDP's Office of Strategic Planning. Ms. Capeling-Alakija joined UNDP in 1989 as Managing Director of UNIFEM. She brought to UNIFEM a wealth of relevant experience, acquired during sixteen years of service with the Canadian University Services Overseas (CUSO). She served with CUSO as Coordinator of the Local Committee in Ottawa, Canada; Coordinator of CUSO's Orientation Department; Director of its Human Resources Division; Director of Public Affairs and Programme Funding; and Director of CUSO's West Africa Region, Togo.

Under Ms. Capeling-Alakija's leadership, UNIFEM's increased visibility and credibility has led to the tripling of programme resources.

Mr. Anton Kruiderink was appointed Director of UNDP's Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Mr. Kruiderink joined the UN system in 1966 as Associate Expert in Regional Planning and Community Development in Colombia. Upon completion of a teaching assignment at the International Institute for Aerial Surveys and Earth Sciences in the Netherlands, Mr. Kruiderink joined UNDP as Assistant Resident Representative in Mexico in 1970. Since then, he has served in UNDP's Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (RBLAC) as Area Officer, Officer-in-Charge in Nicaragua, and Deputy Chief in the Division for the Regional Programmes in New York. He was appointed as Resident Representative in Honduras in 1979. In 1983, he became the first Director of the newly created Resource Mobilization Unit in the Office of the Administrator.

His most recent appointment has been first as Officer-in-Charge of RBLAC, and since May 1991 as Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Regional Director of the RBLAC. He has played a significant role in bringing about a new UNDP profile, strengthened resources mobilization and new budget strategies in the Latin America and Caribbean region, which have invigorated UNDP's presence there.

Editor: Cherie Hart
Tel: (212) 906 5304
Fax: (212) 906 5364

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Progress made towards Social Summit — UNDP to examine international policy options for creating employment

Delegates to the 12-day Preparatory Committee meeting for the World Summit for Social Development agreed that any new social development agenda must be based on the premise of putting people at the centre of development and economic policies.

Delegates recognized that national strategies and action in such social development areas as job creation is not enough, and that an international environment must be created as well. In that connection, UNDP and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) will draft a study of options for action at the international level. The study will take account of free capital and trade markets and other international conditions. It will suggest reforms of international institutions and will propose actions that would only be effective in an international setting. After drafting the study, UNDP and the ILO will call a meeting to review the draft before the final version is completed.

UNDP will also be conducting in-depth studies related to each of the three priority areas of the Summit: alleviating and reducing poverty, expanding productive employment and enhancing social integration.

In addition, the 1994 *Human Development Report* will be released in June and will focus directly on the Social Summit. This edition will present a fifty year review of human development, and based on the findings, will discuss the

Continued on page 2, col. 2

Membership of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA by region

(Term expires on the last day in the year indicated)

African States:

Cameroon (1994) • Congo (1994) • Gambia (1994) • Lesotho (1994) • Morocco (1996) • Sierra Leone (1996) • Somalia (1994) • Sudan (1995)

Asian & Pacific States:

Bangladesh (1996) • China (1994) • India (1995) • Pakistan (1996) • Papua New Guinea (1994) • Philippines (1994) • Republic of Korea (1995)

Latin American & Caribbean States:

Argentina (1995) • Cuba (1994) • Peru (1996) • Trinidad and Tobago (1996) • Uruguay (1995)

Eastern European States:

Bulgaria (1995) • Poland (1996) • Russian Federation (1995) • Slovak Republic (1994)

Western European & Other States:

Belgium (1996) • Canada (1994) • Denmark (1996) • France (1994) • Germany (1994) • Italy (1995) • Japan (1996) • New Zealand (1995) • Norway (1994) • Portugal (1996) • United Kingdom (1995) • United States of America (1995)

In this issue:

Peru's privatisation plan to channel funds for social programmes — Bureau of Statistics will assist development planning for Palestinians — What is the economic impact of the drug trade in Latin America?

Building a new UNDP: Agenda for Change

The United Nations must become a major force for sustainable human development, global human security and for new, reformed international development cooperation, said UNDP Administrator James Gustave Speth in his first address to the newly-established Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA, on 18 February. "New patterns of international cooperation must be forged," said Mr. Speth.

But, he added, the UN's potential is not being realized in these areas. UNDP, therefore, must assume a stronger role as the central coordinating and development cooperation institution of the UN.

Mr. Speth said that UNDP's strength stems from its more than 130 country offices, the Resident Coordinator role of the UNDP Resident Representative, UNDP's broad multi-sectoral approach to development, its universal access to expertise and technology, and the grant aid it offers.

For UNDP to achieve its mission, there are three clear priority areas that must be addressed, said Mr. Speth. First, UNDP must work to strengthen international cooperation for sustainable human development and become a major substantive resource in achieving it. To do this, "UNDP needs to devote more effort to the questions of what works where, when and why, and do so in a way that accesses rather than duplicates the expertise available in the UN programmes and agencies," he said. "UNDP's major contribution to date in this area has been the *Human Development Report.*" Mr. Speth added that by pursuing this goal of acting as a substantive development resource, UNDP could make

"a significant contribution to global peace and human security."

UNDP's second goal is to serve the United Nations family to help it become a unified, powerful force for sustainable human development. In so doing, "UNDP becomes a major force for the backbone of coordinated external development and humanitarian assistance at the country level, while building internal capacity to coordinate," said Mr. Speth.

The third goal is to focus UNDP's strengths and assets to make the maximum contribution to sustainable human development in the countries it serves. UNDP will then be "able to make a measurable impact on country efforts against poverty and environmental decline, and for sustainable human development — by building capacity in government and in civil society so that people can manage their own development," said Mr. Speth.

The mandates UNDP received from its former Governing Council and the General Assembly, said Mr. Speth, are sending UNDP a very basic and important message: "UNDP must promote development that gives priority to the poor, to the creation of jobs (for without that there will be no elimination of poverty), to the advancement of women, and to the protection of the environment," said Mr. Speth in his concluding statements to the newly-created Executive Board.

In his final remarks to the delegates, Ambassador Mohammad Hamid Ansari, the President of the Executive Board said, "The Administrator gave us a powerful presentation of 'Building a New UNDP: Agenda for Change'. It made a great impact and the ideas presented were generally welcomed by the Board."

The Governing Council of UNDP and UNFPA was transformed into an Executive Board last December by the General Assembly. The new UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board replaces the Governing Council, and is responsible for providing intergovernmental support to and supervision of the activities of UNDP and UNFPA.

As its first order of business, the new Board elected Ambassador Ansari, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, as its first president. He will serve a one-year term.

The Board also elected four vice presidents: Valentin Dobrev, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations in Geneva; Mr. R. Carlos Sersale di Cerisano (Argentina); Mr. Momodou Kebba Jallow (Gambia); and Ms. Elisabeth Jacobsen (Norway).

The Board will hold its second regular session on 10-13 May 1994 in New York, and its annual meeting will take place in Geneva on 6-17 June 1994.

The Board authorized UNDP to hire a limited network of up to 22 HIV and Development National Professional Officer posts to support the role of the Resident Coordinator/Resident Representative in the national responses to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The contracts will be reviewed by the Executive Board at its fall 1994 regular session.

The Board also began preliminary discussion of rules of procedure. It decided that reports from the Secretariat will consist of no more than three pages and include sections identifying the objective of the report, means of implementation and the decision requested of the Board.

Finally, the Board expressed its appreciation to Mr. Luis Maria Gomez, Associate Administrator from 1990 until the first day of the Executive Board session. In a decision adopted, the Board thanked Mr. Gomez sincerely for his exceptional contribution to the work of UNDP.

Social Summit Progress

Continued from page 1

need for, and basic outlines of, a new paradigm for sustainable human development, with special emphasis on the three Social Summit themes. A new approach to human security will be proposed, within a new framework of international cooperation in support of sustainable human development worldwide.

UNDP is also committed to supporting the participation of developing country NGOs and other institutions of civil society in the preparatory process of the Summit. Discussions held with NGO representatives during the first session of the PrepCom identified three areas in which UNDP can provide support: by increasing information flows among NGOs and with governments, especially through the use of computer networks and conferences; by facilitating consultations between governments and NGOs on Summit issues; and by inviting substantive NGO proposals in forthcoming sessions of the PrepCom on priority issues identified by NGOs themselves.

The PrepCom concluded in New York on 11 February with the completion of outlines for the declaration of purpose, and an action plan to be adopted at the Summit in Copenhagen in March of 1995. The Summit will bring together heads of state and government from around the world to agree on a programme of action to meet the three priority needs.

The PrepCom was the first of three meetings to be held over the next year. Delegates at this session agreed on the format and structure of a draft declaration and a draft programme of action which will be prepared by the UN Secretariat by 1 June 1994. Their decision states that the draft declaration should contain three parts: a description of the world social situation; principles, goals, policy orientations and common challenges to be addressed by all actors at the local, national, regional and international levels; and an expression of commitment and issues relating to implementation and follow-up. They also urged delegations to submit their contributions to the Secretariat for inclusion in the draft text which will be released in June.

J. Frank/UNDP

Peru is privatizing more than 230 state enterprises.

Peru's privatization plan to channel funds for social programmes

Peru is pursuing an economic policy to reduce state involvement in business, while increasing public sector commitment in such areas as education, employment, and infrastructure for development. The government requested assistance from the World Bank and UNDP to help privatize 233 state enterprises that had become a financial burden. The proceeds from the sale of some of these enterprises are already being channelled toward social programmes.

UNDP helped shape legislation in Peru that ensures that funds from public sector sales are used for poverty eradication programmes, and that savings resulting from cutting out inefficient public enterprises are channelled into social programmes. The UNDP involvement encouraged new partnerships between the state and the market that combines market efficiency with social compassion.

Already, the national programme on privatization in Peru, supported by UNDP, the World Bank and other donors, has helped to privatize the largest steel industry, formerly running at 20 per cent capacity. The steel industry is now hiring additional workers. Another major success of the programme was the sale of Aero Peru to Aero Mexico.

New Bureau of Statistics will help determine needs of Palestinians

UNDP is providing assistance to the first agency of the Palestinian self-governing authority. The newly-established Palestinian Bureau of Statistics was created late last year under the auspices of the Palestinian Liberation Organization. It will form the nucleus of a central bureau of statistics which will design, develop and apply a statistical system suited to Palestinian needs. Located in East Jerusalem, the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics has a Board of Directors which represents key economic policy decision-makers and researchers.

Accurate statistics are among the most fundamental elements needed for a government to plan health, education and social services. Population data, information on the availability of agricultural land, the amount of water available, the number of households served by sewage networks, the amount of money available in savings — all add up to essential statistical information for government decision-making and economic planning.

The new Bureau of Statistics will diagnose needs, help allocate proper public services and ensure effective development planning for the Palestinian population.

A master plan will be devised, with UNDP assistance, to establish the general direction of the Bureau's statistical activities, design the organizational structure of the Bureau, identify staffing and training requirements and come up with a budget for carrying out planned activities. In addition, a strategy will be determined for coordinating international technical support.

More reliable data will help the government plan for Palestinian needs in such sectors as education.

Hans Olsen/UNDP

What is the economic impact of the drug trade in Latin America?

Despite its obvious economic importance, there are few studies on the economic impact of the illicit drug industry in developing countries. In the Andes region of Latin America, for example, studies have tended to concentrate on pharmaceutical, medical, legal, political, and anthropological aspects of illicit drugs. Researchers have paid only limited attention to the economic aspects of the drug trade. Several Latin American countries, therefore, have asked UNDP to address the impact of drugs on their national development, and to examine the effects that the illicit drug trade has on their economies.

UNDP will help countries to develop macroeconomic assessments of the economic impact of drugs. Such assessments could serve as the basis for consultation among governments for devising policies to curb the illicit drug trade. Better understanding of the impact of drugs could also help shape development policies to ameliorate the negative impact of drug activities on the economic, social and political development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Specifically, UNDP will help produce a set of economic indicators and studies on the impact of illegal drugs on such variables as Gross Domestic Product, domestic prices, inflation, capital flows, savings, investment, exchange rates, and foreign trade. It will help develop a more accurate system of national accounts that incorporates hidden, illegal drug-related economic data estimates and their impact on national economies. An assessment will be made of the magnitude of illegal drug production and consumption in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru.

In addition, UNDP will help assess existing drug-reduction programmes in at least three Latin American countries. All project activities will be coordinated with ongoing work of other academic and governmental organizations undertaking research in the United States, Latin America and Europe, and with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme on various aspects of the Latin American illicit drug trade.

Editor: Cherie Hart
Tel: (212) 906 5304
Fax: (212) 906 5364

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P.S. Sudhakaran / UN

A UN peace-keeper from Pakistan demonstrates the use of a mine detector at the UN mine clearance training school near Phnom Penh.

In this issue:

Improving aid management in Indonesia — Alternatives to slash-and-burn agriculture — Network for sustainable development expands scope

UNDP creates trust fund to fight scourge of land mines in Cambodia

Development prospects for Cambodia continue to be seriously hampered by the existence of millions of land mines laid over the past 20 years or more of civil unrest. These mines continue to claim more than 300 victims per month. They also relegate thousands of hectares of potentially productive farm land to "no go" areas, resulting in Cambodia continuing to be a food deficit country. The number of land mines now laid in Cambodia is between six to 10 million, representing roughly seven to 11 per cent of the estimated uncleared mines worldwide.

Late last year, UNDP established a trust fund to support the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, the main Cambodian institution in the country responsible for addressing the problem. The Centre itself was created in mid-1992 and was fully financed by the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) during its first year of operation, with a mandate to implement and coordinate demining efforts in Cambodia.

When the UNTAC mandate ended in September 1993, the UN Secretary General requested UNDP to continue helping the Cambodian Mine Action Centre. The Centre has launched a large-scale programme in the areas of mine information, mine marking, mine clearance and training in mine clearance.

UNDP will help raise US$10 million a year for the coming two years for the trust fund. Under the auspices of UNDP, interested governments have been approached to provide funds as well as 30 international advisory personnel to guide the Centre. To date, the UNDP trust fund has reached $6 million, with contributions from Denmark, Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Australia and Sweden are expected to contribute in the near future.

Even before beginning to support the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, UNDP was involved in demining activities in Cambodia through its assistance to rural development activities. UNDP employed the services of Norwegian Peoples Aid, an NGO that started working in 1992 on demining programmes in Cambodia. The Norwegian Peoples Aid demining programme was largely undertaken in Banteay Meanchey and Battambang provinces. The programme managed to clear more than 285,000 square metres of land, and destroy approximately 1,000 anti-personnel mines.

Promoting press involvement in Ukraine's national elections

UNDP is providing support to help stimulate public interest in the upcoming elections in Ukraine. On 27 March 1994, Ukraine, a country of 52 million peop'e, will hold its first Parliamentary elections since declaring independence

from the Soviet Union in 1991. New Presidential elections will be held on 26 June 1994. UNDP assistance will be used to promote greater media involvement in the electoral process by organizing conferences, debates, seminars and journalists' meetings with political candidates throughout the country.

These elections will represent the first free elections in the now independent country of Ukraine. The nation has little experience with the democratic process. It is important, therefore, that the country's voters, and also the international community perceive that the elections have been conducted equitably. Demonstration that fair elections took place could accelerate Ukraine's membership in the Council of Europe. In this context, the mass media will help to ensure maximum participation of the population, and to clarify such issues as economic, social, constitutional and political reforms, and the nature of the democratic process.

The project will acquaint local media representatives with international electoral, legal and journalistic standards and practices relating to elections, will promote a wider understanding of the issues at stake in the elections, and will help the press observe the campaign process.

Specifically, UNDP will help organize televised debates between leading parliamentary and presidential candidates. It will also arrange visits of foreign and local journalists to urban and rural polling stations, electoral commissions and campaign centres. The purpose of such visits will be to improve coverage of the election process in rural areas.

A conference for the local media will be organized in Kiev, moderated by international human rights and legal experts. Seminars for journalists based outside the capital will be held on topics relevant to elections. These will include such issues as voter registration, candidate registration, the role of parties and interest groups, ethics, human rights, and the democratic process.

This electoral assistance to Ukraine will be carried out by UNDP's Office for Project Services, in association with the Electoral Assistance Unit of the UN and the UN Centre for Human Rights.

Indonesia to improve management of its development assistance

The Government of Indonesia has requested assistance from UNDP to strengthen its capacity for planning and managing official development grant and loan assistance. UNDP will help to improve the quality of projects proposed for foreign economic cooperation and the timeliness of management information.

Foreign aid has played a large role in the Government of Indonesia's development planning. Total foreign funding required for the REPELITA V five-year plan (1989-93) was an estimated $34.9 billion, or 56 per cent of the total development budget.

At any one time, government agencies in Indonesia are carrying out 4,000 projects. Nearly all of the larger ones involve external grants or loans.

UNDP will assist Indonesia's National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) in addressing significant problems related to the mobilization and use of foreign economic cooperation. The quality of project proposals received and approved by BAPPENAS varies widely due to such factors as weak procedures and the donor-driven identification of many projects. Donors are frequently involved in project identification, preparation and appraisal, and as a result, their own motives and priorities become inextricably interwoven with development considerations. The lack of basic national information for decision-making also places constraints on the planning and management of foreign economic cooperation.

The UNDP-supported programme will help revise guidelines and procedures for preparing and appraising development project proposals. A training curriculum will be developed to help ministries identify and appraise projects. In addition, an information system will be set up to track project proposals and generate basic data and reports on foreign economic cooperation for BAPPENAS.

Searching for alternatives to slash-and-burn agriculture

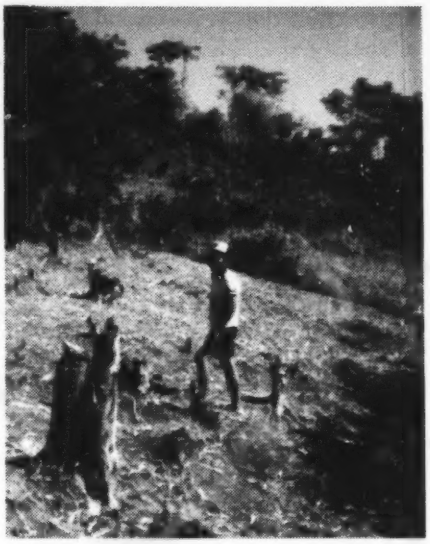
UNDP is providing support in the amount of $3 million for a worldwide research and development project, funded through the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which will help reduce tropical deforestation caused by slash-and-burn agriculture.

Activities are aimed at investigating alternative land use practices to slash-and-burn, with particular emphasis on the socio-economic factors. In recent years, these factors have altered slash-and-burn agriculture from a relatively sustainable and appropriate system into a destructive force contributing significantly to the decline of the global environment. It is now estimated that tropical deforestation accounts for 25 per cent of global warming, largely by spewing enormous quantities of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere which in turn has a "greenhouse effect" on climate. It is also responsible for the destruction of plant and animal genetic diversity and threatens life supporting watersheds throughout the developing world.

Activities of the project will also help shape policies, strategies and legislation which encourage viable alternatives to slash-and-burn agriculture.

Poor, displaced and rural populations comprise the predominant groups who practice unsustainable shifting cultivation. Sustainable alternatives to slash-and-burn would enable millions of poor farmers to make a living without destroying additional forests.

David Kinley/UNDP



Farming on burned-out hillsides is a leading cause of erosion in the Philippines. UNDP is providing support for a worldwide research and development project to help reduce tropical deforestation caused by slash-and-burn agriculture.

This GEF project will be carried out in three sites. In Africa, the site will be in the equatorial Congo rain forest. In Latin America, a site in the Brazilian Amazon has been selected. In Asia, the site envisioned is in the equatorial rain forests of Indonesia.

This programme will help determine the agricultural constraints that drive farmers to use the slash-and-burn approach. The programme will also support research to develop and test alternative technologies with farmers' groups, and identify suitable policies that provide incentives for the use of such technologies. It will be coordinated on a global basis by the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry. A network of national institutions will be engaged in practical field evaluation of the policies and technologies to be identified. Appropriate local and regional NGOs will provide liaison with farmers' groups and extension services.

As with most GEF projects, leveraging additional funds is a major consideration. A global strategy developed by leading research institutions places the five-year needs at $75 million if meaningful alternatives to slash-and-burn agriculture are to be developed for all affected areas of the world. It is intended that this first contribution of $3 million will be a catalyst for additional funding for the years ahead.

The GEF supports projects in developing countries aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preserving biological diversity, protecting international waters, and reducing ozone layer depletion. It is co-managed by UNDP, the World Bank and the UN Environment Programme.

Network for sustainable development expands its scope

UNDP is contributing $1.5 million to expand its Sustainable Development Network (SDN), an information system which links sources and users of information on sustainable development in government, research, academic, media, non-governmental, grassroots and entrepreneurial organizations. The SDN assists countries in gaining access to information and sound technologies that will enable them to care for their environment while improving economic growth for present and future generations. The SDN now operates in six countries and one sub-region.

The additional funds will be used to introduce new SDNs. Greater emphasis will be placed on the Africa region. The network will also give priority to countries assisted by CAPACITY 21, a UNDP initiative to support developing countries in preparing and managing their own sustainable development plans.

The SDN began in 1989 to promote the UN Conference on Environment and Development, known as the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro. In June 1992, SDN deliberations relied extensively on the use of computer-mediated communications. UNDP's aim was to demonstrate to the Earth Summit how SDNs could contribute to exchanging information on sustainable development. Just before the Earth Summit, UNDP allocated $1.4 million for a 14-month pilot phase to refine and test the SDN concept. Twelve pilot projects were developed, and the SDN is now operating in Angola, Bolivia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Pakistan, the Philippines, and the South Pacific. The new funds are expected to bring a total of 20 SDNs into operation by the end of 1994.

UNDP will continue to provide conceptual and administrative support to SDN sites around the world. In addition, it will provide computer equipment, software, information packages and management tools, along with training workshops and technical assistance.

Approved projects

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

Panama — Biodiversity Conservation in the Darien — This project will support research on the Darien province, a part of the Choco Biogeographic region, a tract of land which is rich in biodiversity and extends from Panama, through the Pacific coast of Colombia into Ecuador. The data collected will provide the foundation for legislative and policy reform and improved planning for sustainable management practices in the area. This project will also help strengthen the institutional and managerial capacities of agencies involved in resource protection and management in the Darien region.

UNDP contribution: $2 million. Government cost-sharing: $291,262. Funds will be used for experts in biological research and prospecting, and natural resource

economics. Subcontracts will be awarded to national NGOs, universities and research centres for investigation into legislative reform, the commercial use and application of medicinal plants, and the marketing of non-timber products and ecotourism. Executed and implemented by the National Institute of Renewable Natural Resources (INRENARE). (PAN/94/G31)

Latin America and Caribbean Region —Preserving Biodiversity and Socio-Economic Value of Mangrove Ecosystems —Tropical coastal zones, including mangrove wetlands, are among the most productive and diverse ecosystems in the world. Sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems has been hindered by a lack of scientific knowledge regarding mangrove ecology and inadequate management strategies and guidelines.

This project will develop a management plan for Sao Luis Maranhao, a municipality in Brazil, from which strategies and guidelines will be used to develop a larger programme for the conservation of mangrove biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean. Assessments will be made on the status of mangrove ecosystems in the region, including the institutional, financial, technical, policy and capacity-building needs for management of the region's mangroves.

UNDP contribution: $1.1 million. Funds will be used for training, computer equipment, and consultants in environmental economics and mangrove ecology. Executed and implemented by UNESCO. (RLA/92/G41).

Editor: Cherie Hart
Tel: (212) 906 5304
Fax: (212) 906 5364

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United Nations Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017